FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 MARCH 1987

DRA-Pakistan

Following repeated warnings by Pakistan to the DRA about airspace violations, the Pakistani Air Force shot down an intruding Afghan aircraft on 30 March, Karachi radio announced. The plane crashed north of Parachinar, the radio noted. Monitored Afghan media were not observed to report the incident.

Chadian Conflict

A military communique carried by Ndjamena radio claimed that 274 enemy soldiers defected to the Chadian Army during the capture of Faya-Largeau and 16 Libyans were taken prisoner. Weapons captured by the Chadian Army included 11 T-55 tanks and over 100 other vehicles, the communique reported.

"Russian experts were involved in the Libyan aggression," Chadian President Hissein Habre stated in an interview with the FRG's *Der Spiegel*. Habre said Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi overestimated himself in Chad because he has Soviet weapons.

Regarding the Libyan presence in Sudan, SUNA reported Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi told the Sudanese parliament that Libyan forces have been instructed to take orders from the Sudanese military, who will oversee their evacuation. Al-Mahdi said the Libyans were given a week to leave the country, noting that Sudanese Armed Forces "have contained the situation."

Lebanon

Hostages — Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri told the wives of four kidnapped Beirut University College lecturers that the kidnappers are now in an "embarrassing" situation as they want to set the hostages free, Beirut radio reported. Birri denied PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's accusation that Amal was behind the kidnapping, stressing that Amal "does not kidnap people," and he claimed that 'Arafat's security service knows who the real kidnappers are. Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an also denied 'Arafat's accusations that his intelligence men are holding the the four hostages, the radio noted.

In other comments on the hostage issue, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah told the UAE's *Al-Khalij* that the time is not ripe for a solution, QNA reported. Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi stressed that the issue can only be solved through negotiations between Iran and the western countries concerned, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Syrian Summit Conditions — The Lebanese presidential delegation that visited Damascus recently was informed that Syria cannot fix a date for a summit meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil until the latter reaches agreement with the Muslim ministers on the issues of reform, national accord, and relations with Syria, the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* stated in a report cited by WAKH.

Iran

Relations With Syria — Lebanon's Central News Agency reported that Syria has withdrawn 200 military advisers from Iran, according to Radio Free Lebanon. The Syrian advisers were reportedly attached to armored and air force units in Ahvaz and Dezful.

Party Leader's Arrest — Mozaffar Baqa'i Kermani, leader of the outlawed Toilers Party was arrested last week, an "informed source" disclosed in a statement cited by IRNA 31 March.

Israel and the USSR

A major change in Soviet policy toward Jews appears to be imminent, Jerusalem radio announced in a 31 March report on recent talks in Moscow between Soviet officials and representatives of world Jewish organizations. U.S. Jewish official Morris Abram told the radio that the Soviets indicated their intention to establish emigration channels through Romania and to allow "substantially all" refuseniks and their families to leave for Israel "within the year" except for those cases in which national security claims may legitimately be made.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

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Former King Says No Contacts Made on Reconciliation

DW301355 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 30 Mar 87 p 172

[Interview with former Afghan King Mohammad Sahir Shah by unidentified interviewer in Rome; no date given]

[Excerpt] *Spiegel*: Your Majesty, Kabul's Communist Party leader Najibullah has offered you the chance to return to Afghanistan to contribute to the "process of national reconciliation." Is that an acceptable offer to you?

Sahir Shah: No such offer has been presented to me. There are onlypress reports. Whatever may be behind it — the timing for such an offer is unfavorable.

Spiegel: Have you been in contact with Moscow recently?

Sahir Shah: There has been no direct contact made with me about some form of cooperation. However, I do not rule out the possibility that private persons have had exploratory talks.

Spiegel: According to U.S. sources, there have been secret negotiations between Washington and Moscow on your return.

Sahir Shah: They must have been very secret. Anyway, nobody has talked with me, not even the Americans.

Spiegel: Under what conditions would you be ready to avail yourself to a "national reconciliation" in Afghanistan?

Sahir Shah: Reconciliation can only materialize in the framework of a political solution that is acceptable to the Afghan nation and that guarantees their legitimate rights. On those terms I am ready to serve my country without any conditions. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Ties To Be Established With Zimbabwe

LD310802 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul, March 30, BAKHTAR — Based on the accepted principles of the United Nations, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Zimbabwe have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at embassy level beginning from March 31, 1987. The diplomatic relations will be established under the principles of non-alignment, non-intervention into each other's internal affairs, and by taking into account the mutual interest and equality of rights.

Officials Participate in Farmers Day Ceremony

LD280807 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Excerpts] The festival of farmers as the festival of peace and national reconciliation, in the light of the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan, was celebrated today in Kabul at a glorious ceremony. This traditional glorious ceremony was held in the athletic stadium amid expressions of sentiment by tens of thousands of Kabul citizens and people of Kabul districts. It was attended by Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Haji Mohammad Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council and Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the party's Central Committee; Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the DRA National Front; other high-ranking party and government officials, ambassadors, and charges d'affairs of the foreign countries in Kabul; and tens of thousands of Kabul citizens and people of districts as well as toilers of Kabul Province.

According to BIA correspondents, the stadium ceremony began with the reading a few verses of the holy Koran, the playing of the national anthem, and the raising of the DRA national flag.

Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the National Front Central Council and chairman of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission in Afghanistan, then spoke about marking this traditional ceremony. He said: We are on the threshold of the new year, and with determination and action we must transform this year to a year of peace. We should restore complete peace to our historic homeland, Afghanistan. The blossoming of every flower brings the message of spring. The smoke of war destroys the beauty of nature and smiles of children. This Farmers Day let us turn our attention to the millions of peasants. The PDPA, the DRA Government, and the National Front are trying to provide the conditions necessary for our peasants to work comfortably on their land and thereby produce, through effective work, a good harvest for themselves and the rest of the compatriots.

Abdorrahim Hatef added that the party and government have spared no effort to cooperate with the peasants. It is now up to the peasants to sow all of their land and and to work tirelessly.

In detailing the work of the Supreme Commission of National Reconciliation in Afghanistan and the gains achieved by the country after the proclamation of cease-fire, he congratulated all compatriots on the new year on behalf of the DRA National Front and wished them good health and enormous victories. [passage omitted]

Through the celebration of the traditional Farmers Fesitval, the citizens of Kabul demonstrated their decisive support for the national reconcilaition program drawn up by the country's revolutionary sovereignty. The audience's responded to the play by showing hatred and repulsion for the subversive deeds of the extremist elements. [passage omitted]

At the end of the ceremony Comrade Najibullah presented gifts provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform to Ustad Besed and Behruz Behzad, the artists of the national reconciliation play, as well as to the young army parachutists, peasants, gardeners, and cattle-breeders. He also presented gifts to those peasants who received land via the land reform department and the peasant cooperatives of Kabul city and Kabul districts that were recongnized as the pioneer and first-class toilers. [passage omitted]

Ershad Calls For Unity in National Day Message

BK260144 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The 16th Independence and National Day is being celebrated throughout the country today in a befitting manner. In a message on the occasion, President Ershad has called for a renewed pledge to work devotedly on the basis of strong national unity to build the country. He said to achieve this objective, renewed sacrifice, patriotism, peaceful atmosphere, and political stability. [sentence as heard] Paying deep respect to the memory of the shaheed [martyrs], the president said the Independence Day is not only a day for ceremonial festivities but also a day for taking vows to materialize the dreams of the martyrs. Listing various epoch-making reforms effected by his government to accelerate the overall development of the country, the president said we are determined to build an exploitation-free, new Bangladesh. He also conveyed his felicitations to the fellow countrymen on this auspicious occasion and prayed to the Almighty Allah for continued happiness and prosperity of the people. The day is a public holiday and the national flag is flying on all public and private buildings. [passage omitted on programs marking the day].

Foreign Minister Terms Foreign Policy 'Realistic'

BK251700 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1430 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The Parliament was adjourned today for an indefinite period. Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury read out the orders of the president in this regard. Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, who is also the leader of the House, expressed his gratitude to the members for their cooperation during the session, which lasted for more than 2 months. Abdul Malik Ukil, deputy opposition leader, also spoke on this occasion.

Earlier, taking part in the debate on foreign policy in the Parliament, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said that Bangladesh is successfully following a constructive and realistic foreign policy and it has been widely acclaimed all over the world. He said that today Bangladesh has acquired a prestigious position in the community of nations and has become one of the leaders and spokesmen of the Third World. Bangladesh has always firmly advocated the peaceful and amicable settlement of all international issues, including those of the Middle East, Afghanistan, Cambodia, South Africa, and Namibia. Dhaka is now considered a strong and effective spokesman for the islamic world.

Referring to the unsettled disputes with India, the foreign minister said that the present government is making sincere efforts to solve these problems with a spirit of good-neighborliness and cooperation. He hoped that a long-term agreement will soon be reached with India on the distribution of Ganges water, and that the Tin Bigha corridor will also be handed over to Bangladesh. [passage omitted on Parliament proceedings]

Delhi Reports 30 Injured in Bomb Blasts 30 Mar

BK310850 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] In Bangladesh, 30 persons were injured yesterday in bomb blasts in different parts of the country. Police sources in Dhaka said these persons were injured while bombs were hurled at religious functions and in clashes between rival parties. The injured included three policemen.

Gandhi Launches Refinery Project; Views Area Tension

BK301642 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, launched the Karnal refinery project in Haryana this afternoon. It will have an annual capacity of refining 6 million tons of crude and the entire project will cost 1,500 crore rupees. The refinery will go into production in 5 years time. It will be the most modern refinery designed to process a wide range of crude oils including the indigenous Bombay high off-shore crude. A new 315 km branch pipeline will be constructed from the existing pipeline from Chaksu in Rajasthan to Baholi village about 40 km from Karnal where the refinery is to come up.

Mr Gandhi said the refinery will usher in a new era of development not only in Haryana but in the entire north-western region. It will provide employment to thousands of workers directly and indirectly. He said the 403 crore rupee package of assistance announced earlier for Haryana and the 1,500 crore rupee Karnala refinery will lead to faster development of the state.

Referring to the general situation of the country, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said tension has eased in various areas. In Assam and Mizoram it is almost over and in Punjab there is considerable improvement. He said the forces of disintegration in Jammu and Kashmir have been crushed. The prime minister said a greater thrust this year has been given to poverty alleviation programs by earmarking 2,000 crore rupees for the purpose.

AIR's [All India Radio] (Vatan Saudi) reports that the total refining capacity in the country will go up to more than 51 million tons annually after the Karnal refinery goes into operation. Besides 8 lakh additional households will get domestic cooking gas connections. It is the 13th oil refinery in the country and the 7th to be set up by the Indian oil corporation.

Gandhi Urges Push Regarding Defense Requirements

BK271325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister has called upon defense scientists to put India ahead of the frontline nations as regards defense requirements. Inaugurating a new complex for various defense research laboratories and organizations in Bangalore today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the country is looking forward to more research in sophisticated areas which can help the country become self-reliant. The defense minister, Mr V.P. Singh, welcoming the prime minister said the Defense Research Laboratories in Bangalore are successfully trying to develop the light combat aircraft.

Earlier, speaking at a meeting of Congress-I workers, Mr Gandhi said communal and fundamentalist forces are to be countered without weakening religion.

The prime minister was welcomed at Hindustan Aeronautic Limited Airport this morning among others by the state governor, Mr A.N. Banerjee, and the chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde. He left for Neyveli after a 3-hour stay in Bangalore.

Dhaka Reports Security Forces on Alert 30 Mar

BK301724 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1705 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] India's security forces are said to be on alert following a report that five terrorists have entered the country and may be planning to seize hostages or hijack an American airliner. Diplomatic sources said the five are linked to the Abu Nidal faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The report says the terrorists may seize hostages and then try to exchange them for four colleagues held in Pakistan for hijacking an American plane in September last year. In that incident 20 people were killed and more than 100 injured.

Gujarat Farmers Committee Plans Agitation

BK300334 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] The Gujarat government has taken all precautionary measures to maintain law and order in view of today's call for rasta roko [road blockade] agitation. The call has been given by the Gujarat Farmers Coordination Committee in support of their demands, which include reduction in electricity charges and irrigation cess [tax]. Additional police force has been mobilized to prevent any disruption of road traffic. Forth-three trains were canceled today in the Baroda division.

The chief minister, Mr Amarsingh Chaudhury, has appealed to the people not to heed the call in the interest of the state. He also appealed to the Farmers Coordination Committee to give up its agitation and help resolve the problem through talks. Meanwhile, Mr Sharad Joshi, leader of the Maharashtra and Gujarat Farmers Coordination Committee, has appealed to the people, particularly farmers, to remain peaceful during the agitation.

Traffic Affected; Crowds Dispersed

BK301620 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] In Gujarat, traffic on the national and state highways was affected today because of the rasta roko agitation by the State Farmers Coordination Committee. The committee is demanding reduction in electricity charges and irrigation tax. According to the police, several incidents of arson took place in Kheda, Valsad, Baroda, and Surat Districts. Police fired tear gas shells to disperse crowds trying to block roads at several places. About 8,000 people were arrested in Surat District for blocking the roads. The state transport bus services to and from Ahmadabad and in various other parts of the state were paralyzed. However, in rural areas of Saurashtra and Kutch bus services remained unaffected.

Faizabad Situation 'Tense'; Assembly Banned

BK310301 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Police authorities in Lucknow say that the situation in Faizabad and Kanpur towns of Uttar Pradesh is tense but under control. Some incidents of stone throwing were reported from Faizabad yesterday. There was also a bomb explosion in the two, but no one was hurt. Additional police forces have been deployed in all sensitive areas and police patrolling has been intensified. Prohibitory orders under section 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons] are being enforced strictly in Faizabad and Kanpur.

AFP: Over 600 Civilians Raid Golden Temple

BK291622 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] New Delhi, March 29 (AFP) — Angry relatives and friends of a former Sikh militant stormed Amritsar's Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, following reports that he was killed inside the complex, newspapers said here Sunday. More than 600 people, half of them women, entered the shrine, smashed locks and searched rooms for former Sikh student leader Narinder Singh Nandi believed to have been murdered by fellow militants Wednesday.

Security forces ringed the Golden Temple as people searched the hostels and guest rooms of the complex after Nandi's driving licence and diary were found in the administration's locked basement, news reports said. The searchers left after failing to find the corpse, state-run All India Radio said Sunday.

Intelligence authorities say that Sikh militants often torture rival militant faction members and police-informers in temple guest-rooms and finally dump their corpses down the sewers.

The relatives raided the complex after a temple preacher reportedly ordered Nandi's brother, Tarjinder Singh, not to venture to a particular part of the complex where "some youths were being taught a lesson," *The Hindustan Times* newspaper reported.

It was the first time that civilians have stormed the holiest Sikh shrine to look for people believed to have been killed inside. The Punjab police searched the complex early this month following reports that a constable was being tortured in one of the rooms for information.

'Dreaded Terrorist' Escapes Police in Punjab

BK300308 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, a dreaded terrorist, Harjinder Singh Jinda, has escaped from police custody with the connivance of an armed gang. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this morning that he was forcibly taken away from police custody by armed terrorists while he was being taken from Faridkot to Nabha jail last night. The spokesman said about 2 dozen terrorists in two cars surrounded the police vehicle near the village (Uttarkalan), catching the policemen unawares. While taking away Jinda, the terrorists also punctured the police vehicle. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot and a massive manhunt is on to arrest the culprits. Jinda is involved in a number of terrorist activities including the killing of bus passengers near Muktsar last year.

Karachi Reports Intruding Afghan Aircraft Downed

BK301524 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1512 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan Air Force planes today shot down one aircraft of the Kabul regime which had intruded into Pakistan's airspace. A press note issued by the Defense Ministry in Rawalpindi today says that Pakistan had continuously warned the Kabul regime to refrain from violating Pakistan's airspace. After the barbaric bombing by the Kabul regime's aircraft of the innocent Pakistani civilians on the 23d of this month, it was once again made clear to the Kabul regime that if any of their aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace they would be shot down.

This morning at 1145 hours [0645 GMT], Kabul regime's aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace in the Parachinar region. These aircraft intruded up to 10 miles inside Pakistan's territory. Pakistan Air Force planes challenged the aircraft and shot one down. The Kabul regime's aircraft was seen crashing on a mountain north of Parachinar.

Ziaul Haq Discusses Border Issue, Afghanistan

BK310709 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
20 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Chichawatni, March 19 — President Ziaul Haq said here today that situation on the borders and the process of withdrawal of forces from exercise areas was satisfactory.

Taking to newsmen prior to his departure from Chichawatni after a brief visit to the city he said that unity was the best guarantee for the safety and integrity of the country and protection of the Federation.

He said he had repeatedly pointed out that as long as people remain united there could be no danger to the Federation.

He made these remarks when a newsman drew his attention to statements from some politicians apprehending dangers to the country and the Federation.

The President described the initiation of contacts and dialogue between the government and political leaders as a good augury. He pleaded for unity among the politicians in the interest of the country.

The President said whenever the political situation has deteriorated in the country the politicans have been blamed for it. He wished the dialogue between the Government and the political leaders all success.

When a questioner asked as to why no action was being taken against those politicans who received foreign money, the President said everybody knew about those who were receiving such aid. But he said it was difficult to provide proof in the court of law in this respect. He said it was for the Government and the politicans to identify such elements.

Replying to another question the President said that complete understanding exists between him and the Prime Minister. "We are part and parcel of each other", he said and added my statements supported and supplemented the statements of the Prime Minister.

The President said that the recent retirement of the two Generals from the army was in accordance with the Constitution and it was immaterial who did it. About his continuation as Chief of the Army Staff he said his case was entirely different. He said he has been serving as a bridge between the army and the civil government. The nature of his office was different, he added.

He said for the professional command of the army a permanent incumbent was posted for a three-year tenure.

Replying to a question about the recent postponement of the Geneva talks, he said the fixation of a time-frame for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, which was central to the issue remained to be resolved.

He said Pakistan's stand was that the Soviet forces should withdraw in shortest possible time while the USSR was asking for a time limit of 22 months.

In reply to another question, the President said he was ready to visit India again to improve relations between the two countries.

About declaring Sahiwal taxfree zone, the President said that he would call a report from provincial government in this regard.

About the supply of Sui Gas to Sahiwal and Chichawatni, he said, the new sources of gas were being tapped and as supply of gas increased these two cities would be supplied gas.

Earlier addressing a large gathering at the conclusion of the 16th National Kabbadi Championship at the Chichawatni stadium President Zia called upon the people to make Pakistan an impregnable fortress of Islam and democracy.

The President asked the people to continue their cooperation with the present government and help it in its Islamisation programme. He exhorted them to remain steadfast in their love for Islam and put in greater effort for the development, solidarity and prosperity of the country.

He appreciated the role of the people of Chichawatni in promoting the cause of Islam and recalled their contribution to the Nizam-e-Mustafa Movement.

On arrival in Chichawatni President Zia was received at the helipad by three provincial ministers.

Paper Urges Ziaul Haq To Give Up Army Chief Post

BK310857 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
17 Mar 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Changes in Army High Command"]

[Text] The changes in Army's high command, though a routine reshuffle of the top personnel, has a special significance in the context of the transition from military rule to democracy. The

two Generals, Rahimuddin and K.M. Arif have retired on the completion of their tenure, in accordance with service rules which should have been the practice in the past as well. Extensions to top civil and military bureaucrats have been a subject of controversy and the unhealthy tradition has not only created unnecessary roadblocks for normal promotions but has also induced incumbent officials to resort to manoeuvring in order to stick to their jobs beyond their normal tenures.

A good precedent has been set and hopefully this will be followed as a general rule in future. Regardless of the competence and experience of an official who renders life-long service, nobody should be considered indispensable. There is a time for everybody to retire with grace and make way for younger people. The retirement of the two top Army Generals will help to establish the much needed principle that the Army as an institution is not above the law of the land.

With the advent of civilian rule, the new rules of the game should be in consonance with the spirit of democracy and all wielders of power should submit themselves to the imperatives of constitutional functioning. It is pertinent to suggest that President Ziaul Haq should also consider giving up the office of the Chief of the Army Staff, as has so often been demanded by various quarters. This would be a positive move to delink the Army from politics and strengthen the civilian democratic order.

Relevance of 'Zionist Nuclear Threat' Viewed
BK310705 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Mar 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Friends Not Masters"]

[Text] Ambassador Jamshed Marker, Pakistan's envoy to the White House, has duly reflected the consensus of the people of Pakistan by declaring that we do not seek the patronage of the U.S. It sounds like a loud echo of President Ayub's 'Friends Not Masters', a thought which struck the late dictator only when the U.S. had begun to move against him. Denying the Bomb is hardly necessary now, especially when even the U.S. is willing to concede our right to nuclear weapon capability, both on account of the national will behind it and the compulsions of the regional situation.

Recent assertions regarding Pakistan's nuclear nexus have somehow been Indo-Pakcentric, glossing over the reality that Pakistan's threat perceptions are as relevant to Israel as to India; logically, they are viewed as a joint threat to serve imperialist designs. If India's track record of three invasions against Pakistan is bad, Israel's three invasions against the Muslim World are no less reprehensible. After all Pakistan cannot remain impervious to the inimical and insidious design of the Zionist entity to dominate South-West Asia which comprises mostly Muslim lands. The ultimate certification of this danger comes from none other than the OIC Secretary General, Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, who has missed no opportunity or occasion to drive home the reality of the threat and to emphasise that this perception is shared by all in the OIC, who otherwise are at odds with one another on many an issue.

Moreover, since the Zionist entity has a pariah status among the majority of nations, its proclivity to act callously cannot be ignored. Hopefully, policy makers will not succumb to the temptation of even tactically taking the Zionist nuclear threat lightly. They must have probably been convinced by now of the short-shelf life of the Zionist entity and its consequent inclination to act in desperation.

SRI LANKA

'Terrorists' Attack Jaffna Army Fort 30 Mar

BK311114 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Text] Separatist terrorists launched an attack on the army camp at the Jaffna Fort yesterday morning from positions behind the Jaffna hospital. The Media Center said that about 40 mortars were fired in the direction of the camp. Some of the mortars which were manufactured locally had failed to hit the target and had fallen in the hospital compound. However, a few mortars had hit the army camp and the security forces were compelled to retaliate. The security forces maintained utmost care in firing back to avoid damaging the hospital and injuring patients. Nevertheless, the Media Center said that it was unable to say how many people had been injured at the hospital.

The Media Center notes that a similar incident took place about a year ago. On that occasion representatives of the Government Medical Officers Association [GMOA] met the minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali. The minister had explained that if the terrorists agreed to regard the area around the hospital as a peace zone, there will be no retaliatory action on the part of the security forces. Although a delegation of the GMOA visited Jaffna, no agreement was reached on this. The Media Center points out that on every occasion India has taken effective measures to solve the ethnic problem; the terrorists had engaged in incidents of this nature. The terrorists followed this up by saying that they could not come to the negotiating table because the armed forces were killing civilians in Jaffna.

Once again the terrorists have launched their attack at a time when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is making attempts to help to solve the problem. If reports over the past year that the Sri Lanka has been consistently shelling the Jaffna hospital are true, then today there should be no hospital in the area. Although damage has been caused from time to time, the hospital still serves many people.

Government Issues Communique

BK311331 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1319 GMT 31 Mar 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 31 (LANKA PUWATH) — The Media Centre in Colombo today issued the following government communique.

"The government has received reports of damage caused to the Jaffna hospital and death and injury to persons there at approximately 0620 hours (local time) on 30th March, 1987. This was reported by Dr Siva Kumara of the general hospital to the commandant at the Jaffna security forces camp. The commandant informed the doctor that security force mortars were not fired from the fort during that time, at any where near the hospital. Therefore, at that time which Dr Siva Kumara indicated terrorists mortar shells may have misfired and fallen into the hospital. This fact would have been used by the terrorists to bring discredit to the government.

The government renews its offer made through the Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA) to see that no mortars are fired anywhere as to endanger the hospital.

Allegations have been made that the security forces had destroyed a church in Jaffna. This is completely untrue. The reporters already in Jaffna have been requested to take photographs of the said area so that the truth could be revealed.".

Security Forces Repulse Jaffna Attacks 29 Mar

BK300805 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0724 GMT 30 Mar 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, March 30 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists launched attacks on two security forces' camps in the Jaffna District, northern Sri Lanka yesterday morning. Both attacks were effectively repulsed by the security forces.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that terrorists fired mortars at the Kurumbasetty army camp before dawn yesterday. Troops retaliated and silenced mortar fire. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the terrorists. In the engagement Sergeant K.D. Premadasa was killed.

Terrorists also fired mortars at the Navatkuli army camp. Troops returned fire and repulsed the attack.

Meanwhile, in the Killinochchi District, at Pooneryn yesterday morning [words indistinct] navy intercepted a boat and recovered [words indistinct] diesel which were being transported for use of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). A wounded LTTE terrorist was captured.

In Kuruppakutti and Kattidanku villages in northern Sri Lanka yesterday terrorists were flushed out by security forces. The people welcomed the security forces action as taxes were being extracted from them by the terrorists. One terrorist was captured.

In the Ampara District, near the central camp, in eastern Sri Lanka last Saturday, armed terrorists robbed Rs. [rupees] 7675 from a bakery.

Special Task Force Raids 'Another' LTTE Camp

BK290736 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0639 GMT 29 Mar 87

["OANA/Pool" item)

[Text] Colombo, Mar 29 (LANKA PUWATH) — Another LTTE camp was raided by the special task force at Kommaturai, near Chenkaladi in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province district of Batticaloa, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA

PUWATH today. The camp was completely destroyed by the special task force. Sathyanathan alias Sindu was shot dead. The other terrorists abandoned the camp and ran away.

The security forces seized No 36 hand grenades, 50 yards of electric wire, one colour TV (national make), one video deck, one power pack, LTTE literature.

Congolese Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Views Talks' Progress With Musavi

LD261555 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Thursday that today the Third World countries need direct and continuous contacts with one another in cultural, political, and economic fields away from the interference of the Western and Eastern powers.

Referring to the cultural ties between Asian and African nations, the prime minister stressed that they should be informed of each other's political issues and economic situations in order to more harmoniously preserve the interests of their nations at international scenes.

Speaking in a meeting with the visiting foreign minister of the People's Republic of Congo-Brazzaville, Antoine Ndinga-Oba, the prime minister added that if Third World countries break the West's trade monopoly with them, beneficial results would be achieved from talks among themselves. Prime Minister Musavi said that Iran has had good experiences in the area of trade in recent years.

In conclusion, the prime minister expressed hope that Iran-Congo relations would expand. He furthermore stressed that Iran welcomed friendship with African nations.

The Congolese foreign miniter informed Prime Minister Musavi of the progress made in talks with Iranian officials here as well as the joint coordination at the international level. He also conveyed to the prime minister his country's willingness to expand mutual economic and political relations.

Ndinga-Oba also invited Iranian ministers of oil, industries, and commerce to visit his country.

Present in the meeting were Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Mo'ayeri and ambassadors of the two countries.

Ndinga-Oba arrived here Wednesday heading a delegation on an official visit.

Calls for Oil Export Cooperation

LD261602 Tehran IRNA in English 1215 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — Visiting Foreign Minister of People's Republic of the Congo Brazzaville Antoine Ndinga-Oba met with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Thursday and called for expansion of mutual cooperation particularly Iran's oil exports to the Congo.

The oil minister in reply expressed Iran's readiness for expansion of economic ties and agreed to despatch an Iranian expert delegation to inspect Congolese oil installations as well as providing technical assistance.

Expresses Willingness for Relations

LD270557 Tehran IRNA in English 1719 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 26, IRNA — People's Republic of the Congo is willing to have political and economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, said visiting Congolese Minister of Foreign Affairs Antoine Ndinga-Oba in his meeting with Majlis (parliament) speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, here Thursday. Ndinga-Oba expressed hope that the Congo could use Iran's technical and oil experiences.

In response, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said Iran considers Africa as an oppressed continent the same as the Middle East. The Islamic Republic is inclined to invest in Africa in any field and gives priority to countries which are not dependent in the world political scene.

Rafsanjani expressed hope that Iran would be able to help the Congo solve its problems in the fields of oil and trade.

The Congolese minister arrived here on Wednesday heading a delegation.

Embassy To Be Opened in Brazzaville

NC271536 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The Congolese foreign minister, who was in Tehran at the head of a high-level political-economic delegation to our country, departed this morning. He was seen off by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

According to our correspondent, at the Congo's request and following talks between Congolese Foreign Minister Ndinga-Oba and our foreign minister, Iran has agreed to open an embassy in Brazzaville.

The two countries' foreign ministers signed a letter of understanding at Mehrabad Airport, which among other things calls for broadening ties in the political, economic, and cultural fields. It also stresses the need to strengthen cooperation on an international level for the purpose of seeking an appropriate solution to the problems of Third World countries, as well as the need to set up a joint commission for political, economic, commercial, industrial, and cultural cooperation. In accordance with this letter of understanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran will assess the Congo's oil problems and assist in their solution by dispatching a delegation of various mineral, industrial, and training experts to Brazzaville.

The two sides concurred on the need to explore areas for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, manufacturing, weaving, and pulp-making, and Iran agreed to assist with the survey of the Congo's extensive arable land and forests. The two countries also decided to exchange parliamentary, cultural, and political delegations, and to take steps to further cooperation in the pharmaceutical field. They will work together to set up clinics and elementary and secondary schools, and will issue educational scholarships. On the basis of this letter of understanding, the Congolese People's Republic expressed appreciation for the

Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts toward expanding ties with African countries, as well as its continued support for the legitimate aspirations of the African nations, which are in the throes of a struggle for attaining independence. In addition, Mr Velayati accepted an invitation from the Congolese foreign minister to visit Brazzaville.

The Congolese foreign minister spoke to our correspondent prior to his departure from Tehran, expressing his satisfaction with and gratitude for the warm welcome given him by the Iranian officials.

[Begin recording of Ndinga-Oba in French, fading into Persian translation] We had a successful and constructive visit as far as understanding, [word indistinct], and friendship are concerned, and we feel that this visit can act as a firm and solid base for greater cooperation between our two countries in the future. It may be recalled that the People's Republic of the Congo, besides being a member of the United Nations Security Council, is also the head of the OAU. [end recording]

At the conclusion of Ndinga-Oba's visit to Iran, Mr Velayati responded to our correspondent's questions about its results. We draw your attention to this exlusive interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, please tell us in which fields you reached an accord with the Congolese foreign minister.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In yesterday and today's two rounds of talks with the esteemed foreign minister of the Congo, we spoke about issues of mutual interest, as well as international issues, and discussed in rather great detail the cooperation that the two countries could develop in the political, economic, oil, and commercial fields. The Congo is a country that has taken and maintained a very revolutionary stance in Africa since its independence 27 years ago. This is of great significance for us because we prefer to give priority and attach special importance to relations with revolutionary countries, of which the Congo is one.

Hence, in view of the two sides' inclination to forge political links, we agreed over the last two days, and it has been announced in both countries, that Iran and the Congo will establish diplomatic ties. On that basis, we will soon send our ambassador to that country. The Congolese foreign minister's visit to Tehran was actually a major step in the consolidation of Iranian-Congolese ties. The understanding that we reached was a principled one; that is, we emphasized our desire to broaden future mutual ties in all the fields possible and noted the great potential which exists for expanding exports between the two countries.

In addition, Iran has accumulated vast experience in the oil industry. We can share this experience with the Congo, for it does produce some oil and exports enough to provide it with its necessary foreign exchange. Our friends in the Congo require assistance in the fields of oil extraction and refining. In the talks the Congolese delegates had with our respected oil minister, an agreement was reached whereby, God willing, our experts will visit that country and various exchanges on different levels will take place. We hope that we will be able to promote the desired cooperation, especially on the international scene. [end recording]

'Outlawed' Toilers Party Leader Arrested

LD310853 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 31, IRNA — Leader of the outlawed "Zahmatkeshan" (The Toilers) Party Mozaffar Baqa'i Kermani was arrested last week, an informed source told IRNA Tuesday.

The source added that a large quantity of imported alcoholic beverages, opium, and a number of pornographic magazines and films as well as inter-organizational documents were confiscated during the search of his residence.

Khomeyni Receives Divisional Commanders, Others

LD301135 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] A large number of combatants, officials, commanders, and families of martyrs of Muhammad Rasulallah Division were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni at Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran.

During the meeting, the division commander submitted a report to the imam of the nation on the formation and completion of the division, its role at the fronts, and in the victories of the forces of Islam.

The combatants of Muhammad Rasulallah Division vowed to the imam of the nation that they would not rest until the absolute victory of the forces of Islam and the total defeat of the crumbling forces of Saddam. At the end of the meeting, the imam of the nation acknowledged the cheers of the audience.

Musavi Discusses Revolution; Superior Position

LD301935 Tehran IRNA in English 1832 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA, — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Monday that the Islamic Revolution and its values are practical models and determining elements in inspiring liberation movements worldwide.

Speaking at a ceremony commemorating Iranian Muslim combatants martyred in the course of the victorious "Karbala'-5" offensive, launched January 9, Musavi dismissed as fallacy the mere thought that oppressed nations were unable to cast off the hegemony of the colonialist powers. "The oppressed masses around the globe are now witnessing the great truth that they are indeed able to practically negate any foreign power," Musavi noted.

Briefly reviewing the record of various liberation movements and their vulnerability to ideological, political, military, and economic aggression by colonialist powers, Musavi said they failed due to their rigid nationalistic viewpoints. He added that their inability to resist against their enemies finally found them succumbing to aggressive powers.

All enemies of the Islamic Revolution are admitting to its complete independence from big powers as well as its power to foil various plots hatched to destroy it, said the prime minister. It is the divine power which has strengthened the Islamic Republic and the Iranian people, said Musavi, adding that technology, military power, propaganda, and the population of Iran are not enough whereby the Islamic Republic could rely on to confront and defeat its enemies.

Reliance on divine power and following Islamic values have put the Islamic Republic in a superior position, Musavi said. The global change referred to by the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, in his recent speech, is the same attention paid by oppressed masses to this "great truth", he added.

Imam Khomeyni Satuday warned the big powers to change their attitudes towards weaker nations because, he said, the world had changed and therefore "you too should change."

Velayati, Omani Envoy View Gulf Security

LD301528 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA — Oman's new charge d'affaires to Tehran, 'Ali ibn Ghazanfar al-Ajami [spelling as received] met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday and presented him a copy of his credentials. At the meeting, Al-Ajami informed the foreign minister of his country's willingness to further relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. In response, Velayati stressed on the importance of the Strait of Hormuz, noting that safeguarding the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of the regional countries. "Any foreign intervention will worsen the situation in the region," he warned.

The Iranian minister emphasised that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Sultanate of Oman shoulder a sensitive and special role, since the two countries overlook the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz. "We are duty-bound to protect the security of the region," he added.

Kuwaiti Request To Register Ships With U.S. Cited

LD301722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1208 GMT 30 Mar 87

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpts] We draw your attention to the lead article in today's *Jomhuri-ye Eslami* entitled: Is the Shaykh of Kuwait in Possession of All His Senses?

Jomhuri-ye Eslami writes: Kuwait has asked the United States to register Kuwait's oil tankers in the United States, and recognize them as U.S. tankers. While reporting this news, *The Washington Post* added: The United States deemed Kuwait's request unacceptable due to legal obstacles, and replied that it could only be possible if the captains and crews of the ships were American.

The Washington Post stated that while rejecting this humble request of the Kuwaiti court, the United States put forward two new proposals: first, that Kuwaiti tankers should fly the U.S. flag; second, that they should be escorted by the U.S. Navy. Although it is said that Washington's new proposals have been rejected by Kuwait, we must not overlook the desperate requests of the Kuwaiti court for U.S. help.

The mere fact that the shaykh of Kuwait has submitted to such degradation by requesting the registration of Kuwaiti tankers in the United States once again reveals how much humble pie the Al-Sabah administration is prepared to eat. [passage omitted]

A regime that staged the Islamic summit under the protection of the U.S. Navy and presented the United States as the protector of the Kuwait conference might resort to any other, similar humble acts to beg the United States to guarantee its survival. [passage omitted]

The humble request of the court of Al-Sabah to register Kuwaiti tankers in the United States is no different from the impudent proposal of the United States; and the outcome of both proposals is the same — the further degradation of Kuwait by the United States. This is a situation that the incompetent and subservient rulers of the court of Al-Sabah have brought upon themselves. By continuing their humble policies, they have made the United States so impudent that it openly proposes that Kuwaiti ships fly the U.S. flag. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the Muslim people of Kuwait are suffering from the effects of this degradation caused by the court of Al-Sabah. But the question is, where will this unfortunate state of affairs lead? What fate will it have for Kuwait? One can be certain that Washington is trying to take advantage of the anxiety of the court of Al-Sabah and to capitalize on the favorable situation using it to its own advantage. But the question is, has the Kuwait court considered the dangerous repercussions of its humble actions? Has the court of Al-Sabah properly thought about its feeble requests to the United States? Was the shaykh of Kuwait conscious when he made his decision?

The fact is that the U.S. image as a superpower has been shattered all over the world and the Washington rulers feel downtrodden. America's allies and accomplices are no longer reassured by Washington's decisions and actions and no longer trust U.S. promises regarding their own survival. [passage omitted]

Why and how the Kuwaiti court has fallen in this dangerous mire leaves little to say. The answer to that question is clear through a brief review of regional trends and the regrettable role of the court of Al-Sabah in the matter. But, the question is, has the court of Al-Sabah considered the consequences of its action? Whatever the answer, there is a fundamental point in this connection: Through their stupid actions, the court of Al-Sabah has repeatedly made its poor record worse and has burned its bridges one after the other.

If Kuwait is in pursuit of security and peace, it can only attain them by completely and absolutely turning its back on the warmongering Iraqi regime. Whether it wants to or not, the Kuwaiti court will eventually reach the inevitable conclusion that it can do nothing to safeguard the Baghdad regime and that any

effort in this connection can only seriously endanger the existence of the Kuwaiti court. The root of the anxieties, humble proposals, and rash comments of the Al-Sabah court should be sought in this.

U.S. Information-Gathering Ability Questioned

NC310914 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Mar 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In view of the fact that considerable time has elapsed since the Islamic Republic installed surface-to-surface missiles in the coastal areas of the Strait of Hormuz, recent, belated dissemination of this news could be for only two reasons. First, the Yankees had learned earlier of the deployment but have only now decided to use it as propaganda in order to eclipse their humiliation in the Irangate affair; or, second, the Americans really have been late in discovering this measure taken by the Islamic Republic.

It is worth pondering whether this delay could be an opportunistic Washington ploy in its policy of trying to mask its recent political crisis. This possibility is strengthened by Washington's past practice of jumping at every opportunity to whip up anti-Iranian sentiment and blackmail the Islamic Republic. In light of this, statements by Washington officials that they only recently acquired this information give a different perspective to the issue.

Our friends listening know that the neocolonialists have always tried to impress the world with the efficiency and speed of their various news-gathering systems. This sort of propaganda has been successful to a great extent in the past. Despite their efforts, various international developments, especially the Islamic Republic's victories, followed by U.S. ignorance of the Islamic Republic's politico-military innovations, have daily and gradually eroded the impact of their false propaganda.

From this viewpoint, let us consider: U.S. officials have been ignorant of various operations by the Islamic combatants; the archsatan was unable even to identify the venue of these operations; and the Americans, with all their propaganda during past stages of the war, openly admitted their surprise when our surface-to-surface missiles shook Baghdad, acknowledging that they did not even suspect we were armed with missiles. In light of all this, we can clearly see the weakness of the U.S. system of obtaining information, and we can comprehend why the archsatan was a few months late in acquiring information about the installation of the Islamic Republic's missiles on the Persian Gulf!

In any case, we can conclude that the basis of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy on this issue can be summarized in Prime Minister Musavi's recent statement: Whether the Yankees like it or not, we shall continue in our role as guardians of the Strait of Hormuz, and these missiles are only a part of our defense facilities.

Deputy Premier Confers With French Charge

LD301111 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA — The French charge d'affaires in Iran, Pierre Lafrance, [as received] conferred with Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali-Reza Mo'ayeri, here Monday morning.

At the meeting, Lafrance presented a report on the trend of talks for the normalization of bilateral ties. The two sides also discussed matters of mutual interest.

Lafrance said that a French economic delegation will arrive in Tehran in a month to discuss financial disputes.

Construction Minister Reviews Annual Performance

NC300753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Namdar-Zangeneh elaborated on the performance of the Construction Jihad during the year 1365 [Iranian year ending 20 March 1987], saying: From the beginning of the year, due to decreased oil income, the Construction Jihad was faced with reduced income and a subsequent reduction of funds for developmental projects. In view of the current conditions, we began efforts to develop an economy less dependent on oil. In keeping with this policy, under the guidance of the respected imam and with the participation of the people in national affairs, we began studying projects that would yield swift results and require less foreign exchange, giving priority to their implementation.

Among such projects, agricultural production, water pipe projects, and rural and (?alternate) industries were also given priority. The Construction Jihad minister added: Under this program government funds were allocated for the study of such projects, which were to be financed by the private sector and banks. Namdar-Zanganeh added: More than 40 billion rials were allotted to a massive, overall project for canals to increase crop production, and 18 billion rials were set aside for cottage and (alternate) industries. The minister added that among other projects successfully completed in 1365 was the development of new varieties of wheat from dry farming methods, in which remarkable results were achieved with a minimum of investment.

Speaking on the Construction Jihad's 5-year plan to achieve self-sufficiency, Namdar-Zanganeh said that production increases envisaged for rural districts are: wheat, 2 million tons; corn, 1 million tons; barley, 1 million tons; and dry fodder, 3.7 million tons.

Referring to training by the Construction Jihad Ministry in the year 1365, the minister said: In the past year we have stressed training in modern agricultural methods. During this period 700,000 farmers completed various training courses. He added: More than 6,000 employees of the Construction Jihad also completed specialized training courses, improving their work skills.

Regarding the Construction Jihad Ministry's performance on the battlefronts, Namdar-Zanganeh said: In the year 1365 the

Construction Jihad participated actively and extensively on the battlefronts and set up the Ansar Battalion as a modern combat-engineering organization. The greatest achievements of the Ansar Battalion were witnessed in the Al-Faw operations. In addition, this battalion achieved dazzling successes in the "Karbala'-4", -5, -6, and -7, operations.

Concluding this interview, the Construction Jihad minister stressed this ministry's activities in setting up shelters and expressed hope that the Construction Jihad will continue to participate actively and prominently in the rural areas and on the battlefronts.

Communique No 2,791 Details Combat Operations

LD301539 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Muslim forces of Iran Sunday, said a military communique here Monday.

Communique Number 2,791 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces added that Iranian naval gunboats intercepted and inspected 10 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday, but no suspicious case was observed.

An Iraqi supply bridge and several enemy tanks were destroyed in the Marivan region of the northwestern fronts Sunday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Exchange of sporadic artillery fire continued throughout the fronts yesterday, raging somewhat more heavily in Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, Naft-e Shah, and Kushk.

In the northwestern fronts Sunday, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and parts of enemy positions set abiaze.

Movements of Iraqi motorized units and reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters were checked in Marivan, northwestern fronts, and in Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, Sunday.

Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts Sunday exploded one enemy munitions dump and destroyed three heavy engineering vehicles and one tank of theirs.

In the southern fronts, Muslim forces of Iran shelled Iraqi positions yesterday, destroying some enemy bunkers. They also halted Iraqi engineering operations east of Basra, killing several enemy soldiers and destroying one engineering vehicle and one jeep of theirs. Enemy tank fire was also silenced west of Jofeyr.

A convoy of Iranian patrols clashed with Iraqi patrols in a southern front Sunday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and capturing another one.

At least ten Iraqi gun emplacements were destroyed and parts of enemy mine-fields set abiaze in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Faqqeh and Sharhani, southern fronts, Sunday, the communique concluded.

Claims of Kurds Collaborating With Ba'thists Denied

LD301346 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 30, IRNA — A defected Iraqi commander called on other Iraqi forces to renounce the Baghdad government, which plans to wipe out Kurdish people. He also urged the Iraqi troops to join forces of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Dara Haji Ibrahim, the commander of Iraqi Battalion 790 who, along with personnel under his command and their equipment, defected to PUK forces last December, said that the Iraqi regime has so far devastated at least 2,000 Kurdish-populated villages and forced their residents to emigrate to other districts.

The Iraqi commander was speaking at a press conference here where he stressed that the Iraqi Kurdish people are determined to continue their battle until the overthrow of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. He then conveyed the Iraqi people's request for the continuation of military operations of "Karbala'-5", 6, and 7 so that the final blow would be dealt on the Baghdad government.

Haji Ibrahim also described as "pure fabrication" claims of the Baghdad government that Iraqi Kurds, along with other people from various walks of life were collaborating with the Ba'thist regime.

Elsewhere in his interview, the commander called on the regimes supporting the Baghdad government to stop their cooperation in order not to counter the Muslim oppressed people, assuring them that Saddam's regime would finally be toppled.